

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Congresswoman Matsui Joins Community Members to Celebrate the Passage of Historic Health Insurance Reform Legislation**

**SACRAMENTO, CA**— Today, Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-Sacramento) joined Health Care for America Now, AARP, local health care professionals, and members of the community at Trinity Cathedral to celebrate the health insurance reform legislation recently passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama. During the event, over 150 attendees were able to hear the facts about the bill, learn how it will impact American citizens, and share their support for the passage of this landmark legislation.

Excerpts of Congresswoman Matsui's speech, as prepared for delivery, are below:

"We are here today to celebrate the passage of one of the most significant pieces of legislation in generations, one that will stand the test of time as Social Security and Medicare have done. The health insurance reform legislation that was signed into law by President Obama takes critical steps toward making our health care system work again for everyday Americans."

"This bill truly represents the hopes and dreams of many of us here, but also of thousands of Sacramentans who are living one sickness away from bankruptcy. Under the current system, seniors are literally forced to skip or split their pills - prescribed by their doctor - because they cannot afford to refill their prescriptions. And so our bill closes the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap known as the 'donut hole,' starting this year and completely within ten years, so that our seniors do not have to choose between buying food or buying their medicine."

"Under the current system, young adults go years without any health insurance at all. They hope nothing bad ever happens, while their parents pray they will soon be able to get a job with benefits. But our bill allows young adults to stay on their parents' insurance through age 26, giving security to millions of young adults and their families. And unfortunately, under the current system, millions of Americans are denied health coverage because of a 'pre-existing condition,' or because they are too old; or they are charged higher premiums because they are a woman; or they are dropped from their insurance coverage because they got sick, or because they got 'too expensive.' But our bill changes all of this. It ends the most egregious practices of the big insurance companies and puts medical decisions back in the hands of patients and their doctors."

“Simply put, this bill is about putting your health before insurance companies’ profits and making sure no Sacramento family has to go without health insurance. I have started to hear a lot of ‘thank you’s’ from constituents since the bill’s passage. This is why I wanted to come here today and say ‘thank you’ back to all of you.”

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